THE FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF THE CURRENTLY PENDING CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) An apparatus for removing a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

   a base member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near said front end, said base member further having a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate during removal of the staple;

   a lever member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near said front end, said first section of said lever member being pivotally joined to said first section of said base member;

   a tongue extending from said first section of said base member and parallel to said flat surface for wedging under a crossbar of the staple and supporting the substrate during removal of the staple;

   means for preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond a point where the staple can be removed, said preventing means comprising a flange protruding from a middle of said tongue; and

   means for lifting the staple from the substrate using a leverage from said lever member when said lever member is rotated away from said base member, said lifting means joined to said first section of said lever member where said lifting means remains above said flat surface of said base member during the staple removing operation.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further including means for increasing a friction of said base member to the substrate.

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said friction increasing means comprises a rubber material joined to said flat surface of said base member.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a groove in said tongue indicating a point where the staple can be removed.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said tongue extends from said front end of said base member.

8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said staple lifting means comprises teeth which extend from said front end of said lever member, such that when said lever member is moved from a first position where said teeth are above said tongue of said base member, to a second position where said teeth overlap said tongue, said teeth engage an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the staple from the substrate, said teeth comprising front curved edges such that when said lever member is moved from said first position to said second position, said front edges of said teeth remain above said flat surface of said base member.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said lever member is a chambered member such that said base member fits inside said lever member in said first position.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said base member is a chambered member such that said lever member fits inside said base member and further comprising means for providing a gap between outer faces of said base member and inner faces of said lever member.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said gap providing means comprises said base lever being bent in a manner such that said base lever is wider at the base and narrower at the pivot point.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said tongue of base member contains grooves to facilitate a passage of said teeth of said lever member in said second position.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein a width of said tongue is less than a distance between said teeth.

18. (Previously presented) An apparatus for removing a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

a stapler for driving the staple into the substrate, said stapler comprising a stapler base having a front end, a rear end and a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate; and a staple driving lever having a front end and a rear end, said staple driving lever pivotally joined to said stapler base, where said rear end of said stapler base and said stapler lever is the staple driving end;

a tongue extending from said front end of the said stapler base and substantially parallel to said flat surface for wedging under a crossbar of the staple, said tongue supporting the substrate during removal of the staple;

means for preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond a point where the staple can be removed, said preventing means comprising a flange protruding from a middle of said tongue; and

a staple lifting means comprising teeth which extend from said front end of said staple driving lever, such that when said staple driving lever is moved from a first position adjacent to said stapler base where said teeth are above said tongue of said stapler base, to a second position away from said stapler base where said teeth overlap said tongue, said teeth engage an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the staple from the substrate, front edges of said teeth being curved such that when said staple driving lever is moved from said first position to said second position, said front edges of said teeth remain above said flat surface of said stapler base.

19. (Previously presented) An apparatus for removing a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

a stapler for driving the staple into the substrate, said stapler comprising a stapler base having a front end, a rear end and a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate; and a staple driving lever having a front end and a rear end, said staple driving lever pivotally joined to said stapler base, where said rear end of said stapler base and said stapler lever is the staple driving end;

a tongued member joined to said front end of said stapler base of said stapler and parallel to said flat surface;

a teethed member joined to said front end of said staple driving lever of said stapler, said teethed member comprising teeth having curved front edges;

a tongue extending from the front end of said tongued member for wedging under a crossbar of the staple;

means for preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond a point where the staple can be removed, said preventing means comprising a flange protruding from a middle of said tongue; and

a staple lifting means comprising said teethed member joined to said front end of said staple driving lever, such that when said staple driving lever is moved from a first position where said teeth member is above said tongue of said tongued member, to a second position where said teeth overlap said tongue, said teeth engages an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the staple from the substrate, said teeth remaining above said flat surface during said lifting of the staple.

20. (Previously presented) An apparatus for removing a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

a stapler for driving the staple into the substrate, said stapler comprising a stapler base having a front end, a rear end and a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate; and a staple driving lever having a front end and a rear end, said staple driving lever pivotally joined to said stapler base, where said rear end of said stapler base and said stapler lever is the staple driving end;

a chambered lever member that houses said staple driving lever of said stapler;

a tongue extending from said front end of said stapler base and substantially parallel to said flat surface for wedging under a crossbar of the staple, said tongue supporting the substrate during removal of the staple;

means for preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond a point where the

staple can be removed, said preventing means comprising a flange protruding from a middle of said tongue; and

a staple lifting means teeth which extend from said front end of said staple driving lever, such that when staple driving lever is moved from a first position where said teeth are above said tongue of said stapler base, to a second position where said teeth overlap said tongue, said teeth engage an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the staple from the substrate, front edges of said teeth being curved such that when said staple driving lever is moved from said first position to said second position, the said front edges of said teeth remain above said flat surface;

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said staple lifting means comprises teeth which extend from said front end of said lever member, such that when said lever member is moved from a first position where an upper edge of a tip of the said teeth is flush with an upper edge of said tongue, to a second position where said tip of said teeth is above said tongue, said teeth engage an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the said staple from the substrate, bottom edges of said teeth being curved such that when said lever member is moved from said first position to said second position, said bottom edges of said teeth remain above said flat surface of said base member.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, including means for biasing said lever member away from said base member into said first position.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said biasing means comprises a spring positioned between said lever member and said base member.

24 (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said lever member is a chambered member such that said base member fits inside said lever member.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said base member is a chambered member such that said lever member fits inside said base member.

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said tongue of said base member contain grooves to facilitate a passage of said teeth of said lever member.

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said tongue is less than a distance between said teeth of said lever member.

28. (Previously presented) An apparatus for removing a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

a stapler for driving the staple into the substrate, said stapler comprising a stapler base having a front end, a rear end and a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate; and a staple driving lever having a front end and a rear end, said staple driving lever pivotally joined to said stapler base, where said rear end of said stapler base and said stapler lever is the staple driving end;

a tongue extending from said front end of the said stapler base and substantially parallel to said flat surface for wedging under a crossbar of the staple, said tongue supporting the substrate during removal of the staple;

means for preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond a point where the staple can be removed, said preventing means comprising a flange protruding from a middle of said tongue; and

a staple lifting means comprising teeth which extend from said front end of said staple driving lever, such that when said staple driving lever is moved from a first

position where an upper edge of a tip of the said teeth is flush with an upper edge of said tongue, to a second position where said tip of said teeth is above said tongue, said teeth engage an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the staple from the substrate, bottom edges of said teeth being curved such that when said staple driving lever is moved from said first position to said second position, said bottom edges of said teeth remain above said flat surface of said stapler base.

29. (Previously presented) An apparatus for removing staples comprising:

a stapler for driving the staple into the substrate, said stapler comprising a stapler base having a front end, a rear end and a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate; and a staple driving lever having a front end and a rear end, said staple driving lever pivotally joined to said stapler base, where said rear end of said stapler base and said stapler lever is the staple driving end;

a tongued member joined to said front end of said stapler base of said stapler and parallel to said flat surface;

a teethed member joined to said front end of said staple driving lever of said stapler, said teethed member comprising teeth having curved front edges;

a tongue extending from the front end of said tongued member for wedging under a crossbar of the staple;

means for preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond a point where the staple can be removed, said preventing means comprising a flange protruding from a middle of said tongue; and

a staple lifting means comprising said teethed member joined to said front end of said staple driving lever, such that when said staple driving lever is moved from a

first position where an upper edge of a tip of the said teeth is flush with an upper edge of said tongue, to a second position where said tip of said teeth is above said tongue, said teeth engages an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the said staple from the substrate, bottom edges of said teeth being curved such that when said stapler driving lever is moved from said first position to said second position, said bottom edges of said teeth remain above said flat surface .

30. (Previously presented) An apparatus for removing staples comprising:

a stapler for driving the staple into the substrate, said stapler comprising a stapler base having a front end, a rear end and a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate; and a staple driving lever having a front end and a rear end, said staple driving lever pivotally joined to said stapler base, where said rear end of said stapler base and said stapler lever is the staple driving end;

a chambered lever member that houses said staple driving lever of said stapler;

a tongue extending from said front end of said stapler base and substantially parallel to said flat surface for wedging under a crossbar of the staple, said tongue supporting the substrate during removal of the staple;

means for preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond a point where the staple can be removed, said preventing means comprising a flange protruding from a middle of said tongue; and

staple lifting means comprising teeth which extend from said front end of said staple driving lever, such that when said staple driving lever is moved from a first position where an upper edge of said teeth is flush with an upper edge of said tongue, to a second position where said teeth are above said tongue, said teeth engage an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the staple from the substrate,

bottom edges of said teeth being curved such that when staple driving lever is moved from said first position to said second position, said bottom edges of said teeth remain above said flat surface.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, including means for biasing said staple driving lever away from said stapler base into said first position.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said biasing means comprises a spring positioned between said staple driving lever and said stapler base.

34. (Canceled)
35. (Canceled)
36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously presented) An apparatus for removing a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

a base member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near said front end;

a lever member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near said front end, said first section of the lever member is pivotally attached to said first section of said base member;

means for wedging under the staple crossbar, said wedging means comprising a tongue;

means for preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond a point where the staple can be removed, said preventing means comprising a flange protruding from a middle of said tongue;

means for lifting the staple from the substrate using leverage from said lever member pivotally attached to said base member, where said lifting means does not extend below a baseline of said base member during the staple removing operation; and

means for supporting and continuing to support the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with said base member.

38. (Currently amended) An apparatus for removing a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

base member means for resting on the substrate;

lever means for joining to said base member means;

means for wedging under a crossbar of the staple; [[and]]

means for preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond a point where the staple can be removed, said preventing means comprising a flange protruding from a middle of said wedging means; and

means for lifting the staple from the substrate.

39. (Currently amended) An apparatus for removing a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

means for driving the staple into the substrate;

means for wedging under a crossbar of the staple; [[and]]

means for preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond a point where the staple can be removed, said preventing means comprising a flange protruding from a middle of said wedging means; and

means for lifting the staple from the substrate.